

Remarks

Applicant's previous response was identified as not being fully responsive, because independent claims 1 and 40 had been amended so as to no longer read on the elected species shown in FIG. 5B.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to remove the limitation that "one of the arms has unrestricted motion control independent of the others." Claim 1 has been amended to require that "a portion of two of the arms may pass through different angles, relative to the central axis, at the same point in time." This limitation clearly finds support on page 14, line 29 through page 15, line 3—a passage describing the embodiments depicted in FIGs 5A-5B. Thus, independent claim 1 now reads upon the elected species.

Claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 18-22, 27, 28, 34, and 51 are patentably distinct for the reasons advanced in Applicants' previous response. Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claims 40-49 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby mooted the issue of the correctness their rejection. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these claims at a later time.

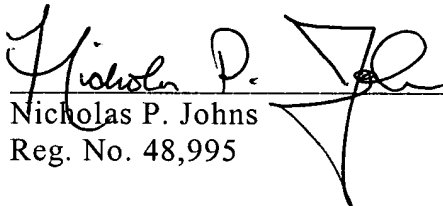
Conclusion

Claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 18-22, 27, 28, 34, and 51 remain pending in the application. These claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth above. This amendment is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request prompt reconsideration, allowance, and passage of the application to issue. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number below to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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Nicholas P. Johns
Reg. No. 48,995